

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NASSAU 00335 171825Z
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C O N F I D E N T I A L NASSAU 0335

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR BF US UK
SUBJ: FACILITIES NEGOTIATIONS - ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TEAM

REF: STATE 030956

1. AT A LUNCHEON MEETING FEB. 15 OF EMBASSY OFFICERS (TAYLOR AND GARNER) WITH BASIL O'BRIAN, UNTIL LAST WEEK DEPUTY SECRETARY TO THE CABINET AND NEWLY APPOINTED PERMANENT SECRETARY AT THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM, SUBJECT OF UPCOMING FACILITIES NEGOTIATIONS AROSE. STATING THAT HE WAS AWARE THAT THE MEETING WOULD BE HELD IN EARLY MARCH, O'BRIAN THEN ASKED "...WHEN THE ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TEAM WOULD BE COMING." HE ADDED THAT HE ASSUMED THAT "IT WOULD COME CONCURRENTLY OR SHORTLY AFTER FACILITIES NEGOTIATIONS TEAM," AND STRONGLY IMPLIED THAT IN HIS MIND, AND THAT OF CABINET, TWO VISITS WERE CLOSELY LINKED AND THAT SUCCESS OF ONE WAS DEPENDENT ON PROGRESS OF THE OTHER.

2. COMMENT: WE CONTINUE STRONGLY TO BELIEVE THAT GCOB HARBORS ILLUSION THAT WE ARE WILLING TO NEGOTIATE AN ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE PACKAGE INCLUDING CONCESSIONAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE AS PART OF THE PRICE FOR CONTINUED BASE RIGHTS AND O'BRIAN'S COMMENT IS ONLY THE LATEST INDICATION TO SUPPORT THAT BELIEF.
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PAGE 02 NASSAU 00335 171825Z

GIVEN THIS WE STRONGLY URGE THAT NEGOTIATING TEAM ARRIVING HERE FOR MARCH 6 OR 7 TALKS BE PREPARED TO RESPOND TO CERTAIN QUESTIONS OF WHEN AN ECONOMIC TEAM CAN BE EXPECTED TO VISIT. IN ADDITION, WE BELIEVE THAT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER THE MARCH 6-7 TALKS, SUCH A TEAM SHOULD PLAN TO VISIT NASSAU IN ORDER TO SAY ONCE AND FOR ALL WHAT ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE,

IF ANY, WE HAVE TO OFFER WITHOUT CONJECTURE AS TO
WHAT IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO OFFER AT SOME FUTURE TIME.
IN OUR VIEW THE SOONER THE GCOB UNDERSTANDS THE REAL-
ITIES OF THE SITUATION, AND THEIR NOTION OF OBTAINING
CONCESSIONAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE AS A QUID FOR THE
BASES IS DISPELLED, THE BETTER. TO ALOOW THEM TO
CONTINUE WITH THEIR UNREALISTIC EXPECTATIONS MUCH
LONGER WILL, IN OUR OPINION, MAKE IT EVEN MORE DIFFICULT
FOR THEM TO COME BACK TO REALITY, THUS MAKING
THE SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF FACILITIES NEGOTIATIONS
EVEN MORE DIFFICULT THAN THEY ALREADY ARE.
SCHWARTZ

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